

Democrats, not as conservatives, not as liberals, but as Americans. We can serve the public good, the common good. We are elected to do that. Let us put the bitterness and rancor behind us, and let us move forward to do the job we are sworn to do. God bless America.

OBJECTING TO THE ELECTORAL VOTE COUNT FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA

(Ms. WATERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, let the RECORD show that on today, Saturday, January 6, I am present on the floor of the House of Representatives prepared to object to the electoral vote count for the State of Florida at the proceedings that will take place at 1 o'clock.

Let the RECORD show that the rules require all objections to be submitted in writing and signed by a Member of the House and a Member of the Senate. As of 11:00 today, I have not been able to identify any U.S. Senator prepared to sign any objections; therefore, all attempts to object may be denied. However, I am voicing my objections to the electoral votes submitted by Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I believe these electoral votes to be illegitimate and unrepresentative of the true popular vote in Florida. Vice President GORE is leading in popular votes in excess of 500,000 votes in this country, and all of Florida's vote recounts are not yet tabulated. The recounts will document that GORE won Florida, despite voter fraud, despite voter intimidation, despite the butterfly ballots, despite the criminal recording of ID numbers on absentee ballots. History will record what really took place in this election.

HOPING TO HEAL WOUNDS AND PUT PEOPLE BEFORE POLITICS

(Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, for the most part, it is a quiet and peaceful day here in Washington.

There is a light dusting of snow outside, and the sun is shining brightly.

This place that the world calls America, but all of us call home, is a special place. There is a good reason for this. We are a peaceful Nation. We are a Nation of laws. We are a Nation that takes pride from the rule of law.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the frustration from the past election; I often feel the same frustration, but now is the time to move forward, to work together, to work in good faith.

I want to work with my Democrat friends to do what is best for America in areas of education, national security, Social Security, Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we can heal the wounds and put people before politics today and throughout the coming weeks and the coming months.

EXPRESSING OUTRAGE AND EXASPERATION OF CONSTITUENTS IN MIAMI, FLORIDA

(Mrs. MEEK of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am a born and raised resident of the State of Florida. I do not stand today before this Congress with great pride, because I must object to the way the votes were handled in the State of Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I am here to express the outrage and exasperation of my constituents in Miami, Florida, over the failure of our government and our electoral system in the 2000 Presidential election; 20,000 votes or more were not counted in Miami, Dade County, Florida.

I am standing so that history will show and record my words so that people might better understand what has happened to us in Miami.

We are outraged because African American voters in Florida did everything they were supposed to do, studied the issues. We did our civic duty. We lined up at the polls and we voted; and yet massive numbers of our votes were not counted. We cannot be silent, even though we would like to. First, the importance of this election is important throughout the country. We exercised what we thought was our legal right, only to have it nullified by faulty and defective voting machines distributed discriminatorily, targeted in our neighborhoods, nullified by purge of voting lists, and on and on.

Mr. Speaker, I want America to understand that African Americans were not given process in this election.

TODAY IS A DAY OF STATESMANSHIP, CIVILITY, AND RESPECT

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, just 24 days ago, an agonizingly close, long Presidential election came to a close. Regardless of partisanship or ideology, Americans were touched by Vice President GORE's gracious and heartfelt concession speech. That night he recalled the words of Senator Steven Douglas from nearly a century and a half ago. Following his loss to Abraham Lincoln, Douglass said partisan feeling must yield to patriotism. I am with you, Mr. President, and God bless.

Those words were spoken at a time when divisions in the United States were so severe that the next 5 years saw nearly 700,000 Americans give their

lives in a great Civil War. Certainly today, even with the partisan rancor that accompanies such a close election, we can stand together.

The traditions of our forefathers, the honor of our constitutional democracy, and the spirit of the words of Vice President GORE call for this to be a day of statesmanship, civility, and respect.

VOICING OBJECTION TO TALLY ON PREMISE OF SELF-EVIDENT TRUTH THAT WE ALL ARE CREATED EQUAL

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Alexander Hamilton said the sacred rights of mankind can never be erased or obscured by mortal power. Today is a solemn day, a day to affirm the votes of the American people; yet thousands of Americans' votes were not counted.

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I went to Florida and saw thousands of Floridian votes thrown out. After marches in Selma, Alabama and a dream that was enunciated at the Lincoln Memorial, it is imperative that the self-evident truth is that every vote must count.

Therefore, at the tallying of the electoral votes, the voice of the voiceless will be heard as I intend to make a formal objection to the tally on the premise of the self-evident truth that we all are created equal.

I will formally object to the electoral votes of the State of Florida, for the Supreme Court's decision must not substitute for the will of the people. I do believe, as the Declaration of Independence has said, we all are created equal with certain inalienable rights of life, liberty, and, of course, freedom and justice, as I paraphrase.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WILL UPHOLD AND DEFEND CONSTITUTION THROUGH ELECTORAL VOTE COUNTING

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, a few short moments ago, the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) stood in the well of this Chamber, raised their right hands, and, as over 400 of us did earlier this week, swore to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the American people will see us again today uphold and defend that Constitution through the electoral vote count.

Mr. Speaker, some preceding speakers have voiced their displeasure with